

## **IN THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1 and 2 are amended. The claim amendments are indicated as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A composition, comprising:  
a nanoparticle consisting essentially of ~~comprising~~ a rare earth element doped in a metal oxide, wherein the surface of said nanoparticle is functionalized with a biological molecule or a polyionic polymer, and wherein said nanoparticle is capable of light emission.
2. (Currently Amended) A composition, comprising:  
a silica glass nanoparticle consisting essentially of ~~comprising~~ a first metal oxide and optionally a second metal oxide, wherein the surface of said nanoparticle is functionalized with a biological material or a polyionic polymer, and wherein said nanoparticle is capable of light emission.